

CANADIAN DIGEST

MOVING PICTURE

Vol. 22, No. 46

TORONTO 2, CANADA

March 14th, 1931

WHY BILL SAXTON WENT NUTS!

BILL Saxton is the Manager of the Century Theatre,
in Baltimore —

HE has a sound-proof office off the balcony where he thinks
up swell ideas to bring in the customers —

BUT last week he heard a terrible uproar, right through
those sound-proof doors —

HE dashed out of his office to locate the trouble —

HE found the audience in a bedlam of laughs, screams
and shrieks —

IT'S been going on all week now —

BILL Saxton's sound-proof office isn't sound-proof any more!

THE reason is

PARLOR, BEDROOM and BATH

BUSTER KEATON, Charlotte **GREENWOOD**, Reginald **DENNY**, Cliff **EDWARDS**

The 4 STAR **METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER**
comedy ★★ ★★ ★



Cops! Crowds!
S. R. O. Packed
lobbies! Riots!
Laughs! Laughs!
Laughs! Laughs!

CLEVELAND

Biggest opening of the
year at Stillman

WASHINGTON

Biggest Monday in 2
years at the Palace.

BALTIMORE

Bill Saxton went nuts
at the Century!

RICHMOND

The same sweet
story.

COLUMBUS

Panicks them at the
Ohio Theatre.

PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

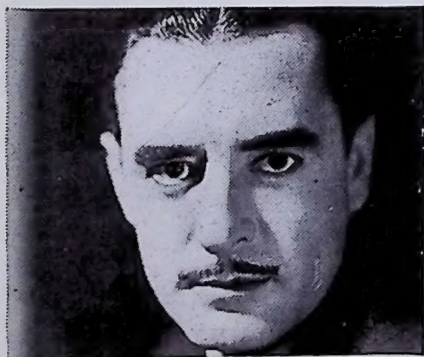
MARCH comes in like a LION!



Good-bye "Divorcee" Records!
Here comes the star of stars!

Norma **SHEARER** **STRANGERS** **MAY KISS**

Let the reviewers tell it: "Norma hits bull's-eye for third straight time. Real box-office bet for any house," says M. P. Herald. "Far superior to 'The Divorcee'." It's a 'Special' in every sense of the word," says Hollywood Reporter.

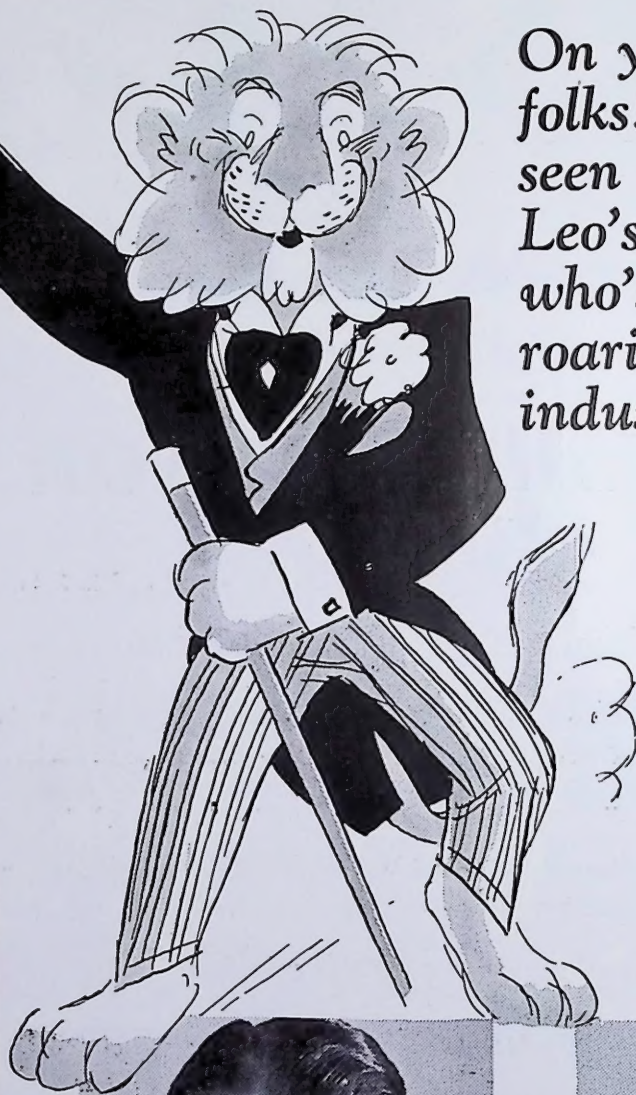


The Gilbert they dream of!
You can't believe your ears!

John **GILBERT** **GENTLEMAN'S** **FATE**

This picture was so important from a public point of view that the N.Y. Evening Telegram printed a special news story from Hollywood saying "Gilbert back in old high status. A success in Talking pictures with 'Gentleman's Fate'." A great cast: Louis Wolheim, Leila Hyams, Marie Prevost, Anita Page. Tell your public now: Gilbert's coming in a tremendous hit!

It's a
pleasure!



On your toes, folks! You ain't seen nothin' yet! Leo's the Lion who's doing the roaring in this industry—

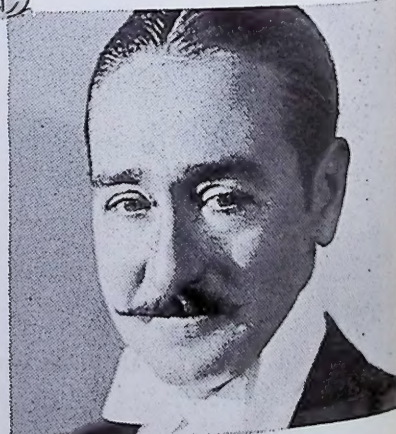
Ain't we got fun! Ain't we got hits! Look what "Parlor, Bedroom & Bath" (Keaton & 4 Stars) is doing! The surprise sensation of the year! "The Easiest Way" (Constance Bennett) is packing the Capitol, N.Y. Held over 2nd Week! "Inspiration" (Garbo) and "Dance, Fools, Dance" (Crawford) continue to mop up! M-G-M has had big years before, but folks this is a BIG one, even for us!



This stage play is the best
vehicle he's ever had!

William **HAINES** **THE TAILOR** **MADE MAN**

This story packs sympathy as well as laughs. That's why it's going to be a great box-office winner. Hollywood Reporter says: "A comedy hit. Just fits star. Will click anywhere."



He's reaching for the top
spot of male talkie stars!

Adolphe **MENJOU** **MEN CALL** **IT LOVE**

When you see Menjou in this thrilling romantic drama you're going to agree that there's a new money-magnet in talkies. He's a joy to watch! A great cast!

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER



You CAN'T AFFORD IT

To-day the world over, public opinion is so strongly in favor of "The Voice of Action" that you cannot afford to be satisfied with anything else.

Behind every installation of "The Voice of Action" there stands an army of trained service engineers to assist you in every emergency — there is one within reach of your house — their motto is "The Show Must Go On".

Why remain outside of the list of over 7,600 satisfied users.

Enquire of

RESEARCH PRODUCTS SALES DEPARTMENT
637 CRAIG STREET WEST
MONTREAL, P.Q.



Western Electric in U. S. A.

A Happy Omen For Happy Showmen

WILL ROGERS

IN

“A CONNECTICUT YANKEE”

Rogers, Man of the People, Pal of Royalty
and Presidents---Also Peasants.

Remember Him in “They Had To See Paris”
and “So This Is London”---Well You Ain’t
Seen Nothing Yet of WILL ROGERS’ Talent
Until You See

“A Connecticut Yankee”

And, of Course It’s A FOX PICTURE

Fox Film Corporation, Limited

HARLEY L. CLARKE, President.

Toronto - Montreal - St. John - Winnipeg - Calgary - Vancouver

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established in 1915 for
Exhibitors

Subscription: \$5.00 yearly

Telephone: Trinity 1481

Cable: Ontocanada

Published by Canadian
Moving Picture Digest
Company, Limited

259 Spadina Ave. - Toronto

RAY LEWIS

Editor and Managing Director

Vol. 22, No. 46

TORONTO 2, CANADA

March 14th, 1931

Do You Believe Killam?



YOU HAVE HEARD of the witness, who when called upon to swear as to his evidence, picked up the Bible and said to the Judge presiding, "I don't know nuthin'".

That was Mr. I. W. Killam, President of the Royal Securities, and owner of the Mail and Empire, reputed to have made several fortunes out of various deals in Canada, among which the Famous Players Canadian deal is

not "so sweet."

Mr. Killam was in the witness box, giving evidence in connection with the Paramount-Publix absorption of Famous Players Canadian. For instance, Mr. Killam, so closely connected with Lord Beaverbrook, and the Royal Securities, could not say whether Lord Beaverbrook was ever connected with the Royal Securities, or with the financing of the Famous Players!

Mr. Killam could not say why the Lieut.-Governor, The Hon. W. D. Ross, and Sir Herbert Holt resigned from the board of directors of the Famous Players Canadian.

Mr. Killam could not say whether Mr. N. L. Nathanson resigned as Managing Director of Famous Players Canadian in protest, to the action taken by those in control of the Famous Players situation, who refused to permit the shareholders to vote on the reported Gaumont-British offer of \$75.00 cash a share for Famous Players.

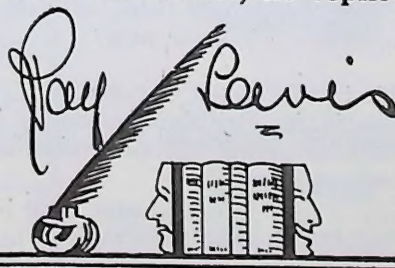
Mr. Killam could not say what Mr. Zukor's initial investment in Famous Players was! He could not even say that it was \$100,000, when Ray Lewis reminded him of this sum!

To the questions, as to the number of shares held by J. P. Bickell, Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Tudhope, directors with I. W. Killam, on the Board of Famous Players, at the time Greenshields & Co. placed the issue in connection with the Voting Trust certificates on the market, and when the previous purchase by Famous Players of the American control was arranged, Mr. Killam replied, "I don't know."

When Mr. Killam was asked whether in 1927 Famous Players had 320,000 shares on the market and in 1929 had only added 60,000 shares to the number, Mr. Killam did not know.

He did not know when questioned, that Paramount-Publix raised its common shares from approximately 800,000 in 1927, to 3,000,000 shares in 1929!

Mr. Killam did not know what Mr. Zukor gave the Canadian company in the spring of 1929, when the Canadian company was said to have purchased the controlling interest in Famous Players from American Interests, and when he was further questioned as to what Mr. Zukor received for his shares, he replied, "Nothing." However, he did know that there was no secret agreement between himself and Mr. Zukor as to how they should vote in respect to the Voting Trust, when he testified Mr. Zukor invested twelve millions in Famous Players; and made no arrangement to protect himself or his company's investment. Do you believe him?



Movie Equipment Now Pays Duty Coming Into Canada

RALEIGH



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

EXHIBITORS, distributors and their legal representatives, including officers of the Famous Players Canadian Corp. and the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors organization, through its officers, have all had an opportunity to give evidence in the Government Investigation, the public hearings which will close next week, when arguments will be heard covering the interpretation of the Act, namely the Combines Act, under which Act this Investigation, with Mr. Peter White, K.C., as Commissioner has been proceeding.

It has been said, "Where there is smoke there is fire." Meaning that in this case, that the Government would not have embarked upon such a lengthy investigation, unless there had been some justification for the expense involved.

The evidence certainly presented a multiplicity of grievances, and when this is analyzed down to the finest deduction, one will find that back of it all is a negation of that principle, "Live and let live."

INTELLIGENT people concede that it is not within the ability of all humans to surround themselves with the luxuries of life, that it is not even humanely possible for some humans to provide themselves with the necessities of life, through many circumstances, primarily an inability to commercialize what earning ability we have, but it is humanely possible and part of God-Made Laws and Man-Made Laws to give each other a humane, as well as an economic chance "To live and let live."

There are men in our Industry, practically the majority of them, who have known the "bloody sweat" of trying to earn just enough for food and shelter, but Greed has veiled the memory of their early sufferings, hardened their hearts, until the stubbornness of their rule is greater by far than the stiff-necked attitude, which inspired the Tidal Wave of the Red Sea to engulf a Pharaoh and his ministry.

These men oppress their fellow-men, these men sit in the seats of the mighty, and whereas the Pharaohs of old, were at least a race of kings, these men are but Little Men, with no family, or tradition behind them, only the glory of being crowned self-made men!

CANADA is too young for slavery. Canada is too rich in its British inheritance, its natural resources, to permit the extermination of independence.

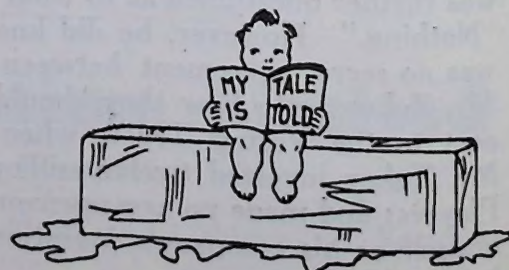
The Showmen of our Film Industry have been wrong repeatedly, in many of their policies, policies unanimously

adopted and blindly followed. They have shown a lamentable lack of foresight in dealing with foreign distribution, in relationship to foreign business administration. They have tried to make the world see through the eyes of the United States, but the Old World is too old in its Conservative vision, too tenacious in holding on to those traditions which have enabled it to grow old, to become sufficiently Americanized to fall in line with the ideas of the United States, just as the United States is too young and too individualistic to be anything else than just what it is, Democracy in the Melting Pot.

Canada too is individualistic, it is part of the Old World, through being one of the Dominions of the British Empire. Those principles and ideals, those ideas which made Canada, just what it is geographically, should be sufficient proof that Canada will not be coaxed, or pushed into the U. S. Melting Pot, even for her own good, if rapid material prosperity can be cited as a good.

That is why Canadians object to having their Screen, that modern invention of propaganda through the form of popular entertainment, controlled by a foreign country, and primarily by a company which has been found guilty in its own country of conducting its business in opposition to the Anti-Sherman Trust Laws, which has been ordered by its own Federal Trade Commission to "Cease and Desist" in the conduct of its business.

THE Famous Players - Paramount-Publix is dictating the policies of Motion Picture Business in Canada, the Hays' Organization here appears to be functioning for the benefit of Famous Players, and to the detriment of all other Independent producer-distributors and exhibitors. The Famous Players - Paramount-Publix method of doing business in Canada has precipitated this Government Investigation, which has involved the entire Film Interests. Will Famous Players - Paramount-Publix cease and desist? Not for anybody's good, and only if the Government of this country finds them a Combine; and Famous Players is obliged to take a little of the bitter medicine which it has been handing out to all its competitors.



Del Maton, Lessee Grand Opera House, Hamilton, Sought by Three Road Companies, \$3,000 Advance Sale Missing

British Feature Pictures and Canadian Show-Goers

The splendid reception given the first two pictures of the series of British super-features in the series known as "The Imperial Eight" is positive proof of two important things.

First, that "Young Woodley" and "Murder" are really good pictures.

Second, that the Canadian people are indeed anxious to see British pictures on the screens in Canada.

Newspaper critics have been most fulsome in their praise of the productions and the leading dailies have added to this praise by discussing the productions in their editorial columns, and pointing out that British-made features have now reached a standard where they will compare most favorably with the best motion pictures produced anywhere.

And now what of the remaining six features of the "The Imperial



**British International
Pictures Ltd.**

Eight?" Can they be depended on to be of the same high calibre as "Young Woodley" and "Murder?"

Well, the next release will be "The Middle Watch," a nautical comedy-drama.

At the recent Imperial Conference held in London, government officials decided to show the visiting premiers how England had advanced in the production of motion pictures. By unanimous vote of all the producers "The Middle Watch" was chosen for a screening that was attended by all the premiers. Could higher praise be given a picture?

"The Middle Watch" has enjoyed a highly prosperous long run at one of the leading theatres on Broadway, New York, and has since been shown in most of the de luxe theatres in the United States.

"The Imperial Eight" is being booked by the big circuits and many other exhibitors.

The Imperial Eight

"Young Woodley"

"Murder"

"The Middle Watch"

"Suspense"

"The Man From
Chicago"

"The 'W' Plan"

"Night Birds"

"The Yellow Mask"



**Regal Films
Limited**
Canadian Distributors

I. W. Killam's Back Is Up

Refuses To Answer Questions—Turns His Back on Ray Lewis (Mrs. Joshua Smith)

"Resignation of N. L. Nathanson, former managing director of Famous Players Canadian Corporation, resulted from action of Mr. Nathanson in attempting to sell Famous Players theatres to British Gaumont, a Fox controlled company, I. W. Killam, president of Royal Securities, Montreal, testified at the investigation before Commissioner Peter White at the City Hall to-day.

Objection to undergoing examination by Mrs. Joshua Smith (Ray Lewis) featured the early part of Mr. Killam's evidence. The difficulty was surmounted by the Commissioner, who interpreted to Mr. Killam the queries put by Mrs. Smith, who turned his back on Mrs. Smith throughout the examination, facing Commissioner White.

Associated Since 1920

"When did you first become associated with Famous Players?" "In 1920," replied Mr. Killam.

"In what way?" "Through my interest in Royal Securities."

"Did Lord Beaverbrook have anything to do with Royal Securities then?" asked Mrs. Smith. Mr. Killam could not say.

"Did the Royal Securities purchase the voting right shares or did Mr. Killam personally?" Mrs. Smith asked.

"The Royal Securities purchased them," replied Mr. Killam. He stated that he himself did not have control.

"Does Mr. Killam know why Sir Herbert Holt and the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Hon. W. D. Ross, resigned at the time Mr. Nathanson did? Was it through protest?" asked Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Killam declared that he did not know.

Nathanson's Resignation

Mrs. Smith was anxious to question Mr. Killam on the reason for Mr. Nathanson's resignation from the position of general manager of Famous Players.

"Was there anything in the nature of a protest over this deal with Mr. Zukor?" asked the Commissioner. "I couldn't say."

"Did Mr. Nathanson resign when the offer of British-Gaumont was refused?" Mr. Killam replied that Mr. Nathanson was the proper witness to testify as to that angle.

Mr. Killam's suggestion that Mr. Nathanson was well represented by Mrs. Smith drew a heated refutation from the lady.

"If Mr. Killam is making the statement under oath that I am representing Mr. Nathanson in this investigation, I will let it stand here. He can and will answer it at another time," said Mrs. Smith pointedly.

Mr. Killam Didn't Know

"How much was Mr. Zukor's initial investment in Famous Players?" asked Mrs. Smith. "I don't know," was Mr. Killam's reply.

"Was it \$100,000?" asked Mrs. Smith. "In addition, of course, to his franchise control in Famous Players Lasky?" Again Mr. Killam didn't know.

"How many shares did J. P. Bickell, Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Tudhope have in the company when the controlling interest was supposed to have been purchased from Famous Players Lasky at the time that Greenshields put their issue of voting certificates on the market at \$51?" asked Mrs. Smith. "I don't know," replied Mr. Killam.

"I have information that Mr. Zukor had never more than \$100,000 invested in Famous Players," stated Mrs. Smith. "That and his franchise were the extent of his

financial interest." "The books will show that. I have them," interjected Commissioner White.

Transactions in 1929

Commissioner White questioned Mr. Killam with regard to the transactions which took place between Mr. Nathanson and the British Gaumont in 1929. At that time Mr. Nathanson was in England, attempting to sell the assets of Famous Players Canadian Corporation at \$75 per share, witness said. This offer, it has been alleged was not accepted.

Mr. Killam explained that no "offer" was really made; that Mr. Nathanson desired Mr. Killam to negotiate with the Fox office in New York, to transfer his voting power, held under an existing trust agreement to the Fox Co. in New York. Mr. Nathanson, also a trustee, would do likewise. The result, as Mr. Killam testified, would be that the Fox Co. would be in a position to accept or reject any offer that the British Gaumont Co. might make. Mr. Killam testified that he knew that the Fox Co. were also in virtual control of British Gaumont and that the action requested by Mr. Nathanson would be "an unethical action" and, he thought, very likely to be contrary to the best interests of the Canadian minority shareholders.

Increased 1,000 Per Cent.

"Does Mr. Killam agree that between 1927-1929 the shares of the Famous Players increased 1,000 per cent. in value?" asked Mrs. Smith.

"Does Mr. Killam not agree that this increase was good for the success and standing of the Famous Players?"

Mr. Killam, through the Commissioner, agreed.

"I understand," said Mr. White, "that Mr. Killam always had great faith in the Famous Players Co."

Mrs. Smith then pointed out that Paramount Public had 800,000 shares outstanding in 1927. These were increased by 2,200,000 shares, making a total of 3,000,000 shares.

"Does Mr. Killam think that it is as easy to pay dividends to 3,000,000 shareholders as 800,000?" asked Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Killam and the spectators and counsel laughed.

Mrs. Smith wanted next to know what the shareholders of Famous Players got and what Mr. Zukor got, when Mr. Zukor was supposed to give \$8,000,000 for control of the company.

"What did Mr. Zukor give the Canadian company for that deal which was made in the spring of 1929?" Mrs. Smith questioned.

Says Zukor Got Nothing

Mrs. Smith started to ask questions to bring out how much Mr. Zukor got for resigning control of the Famous Players. Mr. Killam said Mr. Zukor got nothing.

The Royal Securities Co. did purchase the voting trust securities controlled by Mr. Zukor, Mr. Killam agreed.

The Commissioner would not insist about the details. "Mr. Zukor," said Mrs. Smith, "told me personally that he had got \$30 a share."

The Commissioner did not comment.

Mr. Killam stated that there was no secret agreement between Mr. Nathanson and Mr. Zukor regarding the voting trust.

Mr. Culver, Mr. Killam agreed, was vice-president of

(Continued on Page 9)

Killam Testifies Canadian Control of Famous Players



Show Business



(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

Further fostering a desire for British films, in connection with the All-British Film Week, at the Playhouse Theatre, Winnipeg, this week. "The Epic of the South Pole" was shown. This is a pictorial record of the thrilling incidents of the successful but fatal dash of Captain R. F. Scott to the nethermost point of the globe, where he and his party arrived only to find the Norwegian expedition had forestalled them by 34 days. This film, a triumphant production, is a monument to British courage and fortitude, translated into endeavor and achievement, and should stiffen the spine of any British spectator at the knowledge that the race is as courageous now as it was when pioneers laid the foundations of the British empire. One cannot view this picture without feelings of sadness that so many lives should have been sacrificed for the honor of Britain, but with sadness there comes an all-absorbing pride. Dangers from blizzards, frightful cold and other things that had to be encountered and overcome on the spur of the moment find graphic depiction through the camera's searching eye, and so impressed were the spectators that they could not applaud at the end, though they did pay that tribute to the photographs of the departed heroes. "Royal Remembrances," a film of great events in the story of Britain's royal family, was also shown. The chair was occupied on this occasion by Mrs. J. S. Menzies, of the National Council of Women.

(Special to Digest from Ottawa)

The three theatres in Ottawa of the Nolan Theatre Enterprises, the Avalon, Remy and Columbia, are now on an "open shop" basis following a disagreement with the Projection Operators Local. The Centre and Francais Theatres have also been open shop houses for some months past.

The Fox Film Corp. has brought out a Canadian edition of the Fox Movietone news reel which is called the Canadian Movietone News. A specialty is made of Canadian and European topical views. Paramount also has a regular Canadian edition of the Paramount News.

Representatives of the Canadian-American Talking Picture Studios, Limited, Montreal, organized last summer to produce talking pictures at Chambly Basin, did not appear in defence before Chief Justice Greenshields in the Montreal Civil Court in an action for \$8,000 brought by the Rabinovitch Investment Corp. Judgment for the latter was rendered by the presiding Justice.

The sum represented the amount of a note alleged to have been given by the Canadian-American company as a payment for the property on which the company proposed to erect a film studio. The promoter was Ray Jackson. Stock in the studio project was sold in Montreal at \$10 per share. The prospectus outlined an elaborate film production program for the first year.

Two Canadian Government films have been selected for television tests by the DeForest Radio Company through the latter's experimental station W2XCD at Passaic, N.J., according to announcement by F. C. Badg-

ley, director of the Government studio at Ottawa. The two pictures are "Canada's Pacific Gateway" and "Canada's Metropolis."

A silent feature, "The Lost World," was presented in the auditorium of the Glebe Collegiate, Ottawa, March 6, to raise further funds for the installation of a complete talking picture projection set as a permanent fixture in the school. The school theatre accommodates 1,200 persons.

Manager Ray Tubman started a second talking serial at the Imperial Theatre, Ottawa, on March 7, when the first chapter of "Phantom of the West" was screened along with the final episode of "The Lone Defender." The new serial is to be presented at Saturday matinees only. Joe Franklin of B. F. Keith's Theatre, Ottawa, is also showing "The Indians Are Coming" at Saturday afternoon performances with good result.

To relieve downtown traffic conditions in Montreal at night, the Montreal Police Traffic Bureau has taken over the T. Eaton Company's private parking lot for evenings only for the free parking of cars of theatre patrons. Parking is limited to four hours for each car. The field has a capacity of 25 automobiles and is in the heart of the central theatre district.

Mrs. A. J. Small, of Toronto, wife of the millionaire theatre magnate who disappeared some years ago, is one of the financial backers of an aeroplane manufacturing project in Kitchener, it is announced.

J. P. Bickell, a director of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has become a director of the Toronto Maple Leaf Hockey Club, Limited, which will erect a big sports arena in Toronto to be known as Maple Leaf Gardens.

Hal Roach Starts Spanish

Two Spanish Comedies have been started by Hal Roach, for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Charley Chase has started on a Spanish version of "Rough Seas" titled "Monerías."

Laurel & Hardy have finished "Politiquerias," the Spanish version of "Chickens Come Home," as they are now working on their next Hal Roach production.

Premier Henry Interviews Motion Picture Projectionists Union

Premier George S. Henry interviewed representatives of the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union, Local 173, who were seeking an amendment to regulations for apprentices to the trade. Exception was taken to the examination set by the department. They contended that this examination was based purely upon theory and not upon actual experience of an operator.

Round About the Studios



Bela Lugosi, who plays the part of Count Dracula in Universal's production "Dracula."

Leslie Howard has been given a prominent role in Norma Shearer's new starring vehicle, "A Free Soul," now under way at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios.

Clarence Brown is directing "A Free Soul," which was adapted by John Meehan from Adela Rogers St. John's widely popular story of the same name.

"Good Gracious Annabelle" is once more the favored title for the picture in which Jeanette MacDonald and Thomas Meighan will be co-featured. It is the name of the stage success upon which the picture will be based, but had been temporarily discarded for "All Women Are Hungry."

"Quick Millions" is the final title selected for the Fox picture featuring Spencer Tracy and Marguerite Churchill formerly titled "Skyline." Rowland Brown was co-author and director of this story, which deals with higher racketeering.

"Red Handed" has been selected as the final title for the Fox picture, formerly named "Always Goodbye" in which Elissa Landi is featured. This will be the first directorial attempt by William Cameron Menzies and Kenneth MacKenna.



Patsy Ruth Miller playing in RKO-Pathe's feature, "Lonely Wives."

With "No Lady" and "Down River" due for early presentation, and "The Happy Ending" at present occupying the Shepherd's Bush Studios, there is not unexpectedly a great deal of current speculation as to Gaumont's British production plans, especially as considerable progress has been made on the big extensions now being built.

Dorothy Bay will enact the role of the school teacher, and James Goss will portray the subway guard in Columbia Pictures' adaptation of the sensational stage play, "Subway Express," by Eva K. Flint and Martha Madison. Fred Newmeyer is directing this de luxe "special" with one of the largest casts ever assembled for a motion picture. Jack Holt is featured and the balance of an imposing cast includes: Aileen Pringle, Fred Kelsey, Jason Robards, Alan Roscoe, William Humphrey, Ethel Wales, Bertha Blackman, Max Asher, Lillian Leighton, Maston Williams, Robert Linden, Harry Semeles, Robert St. Angelo and John Kelly.

Robert Armstrong, popular RKO Pathe contract player currently scoring in "Big Money" and "Paid," is on the high seas aboard the S.S. Europa en route to a six weeks' vacation on the continent. During the three days Bob was in New York he has a busy time of it, obliging for publicity stunts, visiting his editor friends and taking in the latest plays including "The Greeks Had a Word For It," "The New Yorkers" and "Grand Hotel."

Although no star has as yet been selected definitely for "Back Street," Carl Laemmle, Jr., has assigned Gladys Lehman to adapt it. Universal is expecting to make this Fanny Hurst picture the first of its big pictures for next season. It has been at the head of the "best seller" book lists all over the country since it first appeared on January 17th.

Lew Cody, well known screen leading man has been signed for the leading male role in Columbia's uproarious comedy, "Meet the Wife." This de luxe "Special" which is being produced by Christie and supervised by Al Christie, is an adaptation of Lynn Starling's stage success of the same name. Laura La Plante will depict the "wife" role and A. Leslie Pearce will direct.

George Kelly has been placed under contract to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and according to present plans will begin work at the coast in the near future.

One of the best-known and most successful New York playwrights since the production of "The Torch-Bearers," and "The Show-Off," Kelly is now represented on Broadway by "Philip Goes Forth," current at the Biltmore, and his other plays include "Craig's Wife," "Behold the Bridegroom" and "Maggie the Magnificent."

Hot on the heels of his tremendous success with the direction of "Cimarron," Wesley Ruggles now makes his bow as author as well as director. Ruggles has written and sold an untitled original story of modern youth to Radio Pictures which he will direct. Howard Estabrook, who did the screen adaptation for "Cimarron," is doing the same job for Ruggles on this piece.



The ever-charming Marion Davies, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star.

"Seed," the big Spring special of the Universal studios, has been completed. Charles G. Norris, its author, left New York last week to see the picturization of his book in Hollywood. John Stahl directed, with a cast which includes John Boles, Genevieve Tobin, Lois Wilson, Raymond Hackett, Bette Davis, ZaSu Pitts, Frances Dade, Richard Tucker and Jed Prouty.

"Salvation Nell," James Cruze's personally directed Tiffany special has been completed and is now in the course of editing.

This is the fourth Cruze feature for Tiffany release. The previous three were "She Got What She Wanted," "The Command Performance" and "Hell Bound."

Nick Grinde has been assigned direction of Joan Crawford's new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer starring vehicle, "Girls Together."

This is an adaptation of Mildred Cram's popular College Humor serial of the same name and is slated to go into production as soon as Miss Crawford completes work in her present picture, "The Torch Song," based on Kenyon Nicholson's stage play.

"Girls Together" will mark the first time Miss Crawford has been directed by Grinde.



SI WILLIS BOB CARNEY
Pathe's Writing Comedians